

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

To:	United States Patent and Trademark Office (Box PCT) Crystal Plaza 2 Washington, DC 20231 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
	in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 14 May 1998 (14.05.98)	
International application No. PCT/JP97/03816	Applicant's or agent's file reference P96-675
International filing date (day/month/year) 22 October 1997 (22.10.97)	Priority date (day/month/year) 23 October 1996 (23.10.96)
Applicant TANAKA, Masahito et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

14 April 1998 (14.04.98)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer K. Takeda Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

REC'D	28 SEP 1998
WIPO	PCT

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P96-675	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/JP97/03816	International filing date (day/month/year) 22/10/1997	Priority date (day/month/year) 23/10/1996
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61F13/15		
Applicant KAO CORPORATION et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of **4** sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of **0** sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 14/04/1998	Date of completion of this report 24.09.98
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0. Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465	Authorized officer Auer, H Telephone No. (+49-89) 2399-2054



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/JP97/03816

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-25 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-20 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/7-7/7 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages:
 the claims, Nos.:
 the drawings, sheets:

3. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/JP97/03816

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 1,19,20
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 2-18
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims 1-20
	No:	Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/JP97/03816

The examination is being carried out on the documents as originally filed.

1. US-A-3 736 931, see in particular figures 1,9,10 and claims, discloses already an absorbent article with a top layer, a back layer and a liquid absorbent member therebetween such as claimed in claim 1.
Thus, since all features of claim 1 are known from one document the subject-matter of claim 1 is not novel.
Also documents EP-A-0 219 326, EP-A-0 558 889, US-A-4 029 101 and CA-A-2 121 512 seen to be relevant in this sense.
2. Dependent claims 2-18 contain features of well known absorbent articles (see documents cited above) the function of which would be regarded by the skilled man as a normal optional possibility.
Claims 2-18 are not in line with Article 33(3) PCT (inventive step).
3. Claims 19 and 20 contain in substance only repetitions of claim 1 and are for the reasons set out under point 1 not novel.
4. The independent claims are not properly cast in a two part form, with those features which in combination are part of the prior art being placed in the first part.
5. Throughout the claims reference signs are not used in parentheses.
6. The documents cited above are not identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein is not discussed.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P96-675	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/JP 97/ 03816	International filing date (day/month/year) 22/10/1997	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 23/10/1996
Applicant KAO CORPORATION et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.
 It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Certain claims were found unsearchable (see Box I).
2. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).
3. The international application contains disclosure of a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing
 - filed with the international application.
 - furnished by the applicant separately from the international application,
 - but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.
 - Transcribed by this Authority
4. With regard to the title, the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
 the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
5. With regard to the abstract,
 the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
 the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this International Search Report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is:
 Figure No. 2 as suggested by the applicant. None of the figures.
 because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 because this figure better characterizes the invention.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P96-675	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/JP97/03816	International filing date (day/month/year) 22/10/1997	Priority date (day/month/year) 23/10/1996	
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- II Priority
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- VII Certain defects in the international application
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Date of submission of the demand 14/04/1998	Date of completion of this report 24. 09. 98
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0, Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465	Authorized officer Auer, H Telephone No. (+49-89) 2399-2054



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/JP97/03816

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 the claims, Nos.:
 the drawings, sheets:

3. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/JP97/03816

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

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Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 2-18
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims 1-20
	No:	Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/JP97/03816

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5. Throughout the claims reference signs are not used in parentheses.
6. The documents cited above are not identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein is not discussed.

PCT

REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For receiving Office use only

International Application No.

International Filing Date



Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference
(if desired) (12 characters maximum)

P 96-675

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION

ABSORBENT ARTICLE

Box No. II APPLICANT

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (i.e. country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

Kao Corporation

14-10, Nihonbashi Kayaba-cho 1-chome,
Chuo-ku, TOKYO 103 JAPAN

This person is also inventor.

Telephone No.

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

State (i.e. country) of nationality:

JAPAN

State (i.e. country) of residence:

JAPAN

This person is applicant for the purposes of: all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (i.e. country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

TANAKA Masahito

c/o Kao Corporation, Research Laboratories,
2606, Akabane, Ichikai-machi, Haga-gun,
TOCHIGI 321-34 JAPAN

This person is:

applicant only

applicant and inventor

inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (i.e. country) of nationality:

JAPAN

State (i.e. country) of residence:

JAPAN

This person is applicant for the purposes of: all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.

Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as: agent common representative

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)

7653 Patent Attorney HATORI Osamu
10129 Patent Attorney MATSUSHIMA Yoshiyuki
AKASAKA HKN BLDG. 6F, 8-6, Akasaka 1-chome,
Minato-ku, TOKYO 107 JAPAN

Telephone No.

03 (5570) 1241

Facsimile No.

03 (5570) 1244

Teleprinter No.

Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.

Continuation of Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANTS AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTORS

If none of the following sub-boxes is used, this sheet is not to be included in the request.

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (i.e. country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

KIMURA Mayumi

c/o Kao Corporation, Research Laboratories,
2606, Akabane, Ichikai-machi, Haga-gun,
TOCHIGI 321-34 JAPAN

This person is:

- applicant only
 applicant and inventor
 inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (i.e. country) of nationality:

JAPAN

State (i.e. country) of residence:

JAPAN

This person is applicant for the purposes of: all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (i.e. country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

NAKAYAMA Takao

c/o Kao Corporation, Research Laboratories,
2606, Akabane, Ichikai-machi, Haga-gun,
TOCHIGI 321-34 JAPAN

This person is:

- applicant only
 applicant and inventor
 inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (i.e. country) of nationality:

JAPAN

State (i.e. country) of residence:

JAPAN

This person is applicant for the purposes of: all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (i.e. country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

HAMAJIMA Mitsugu

c/o Kao Corporation, Research Laboratories,
2606, Akabane, Ichikai-machi, Haga-gun,
TOCHIGI 321-34 JAPAN

This person is:

- applicant only
 applicant and inventor
 inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (i.e. country) of nationality:

JAPAN

State (i.e. country) of residence:

JAPAN

This person is applicant for the purposes of: all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (i.e. country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

NAKANISHI Minoru

c/o Kao Corporation, Research Laboratories,
2606, Akabane, Ichikai-machi, Haga-gun,
TOCHIGI 321-34 JAPAN

This person is:

- applicant only
 applicant and inventor
 inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (i.e. country) of nationality:

JAPAN

State (i.e. country) of residence:

JAPAN

This person is applicant for the purposes of: all designated States all designated States except the United States of America the United States of America only the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on another continuation sheet.

Box No.V DESIGNATION OF STATES

The following designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a) (mark the applicable check-boxes; at least one must be marked):

Regional Patent

- AP ARIPO Patent: KE Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, SD Sudan, SZ Swaziland, UG Uganda, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT
- EA Eurasian Patent: AM Armenia, AZ Azerbaijan, BY Belarus, KG Kyrgyzstan, KZ Kazakstan, MD Republic of Moldova, RU Russian Federation, TJ Tajikistan, TM Turkmenistan, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Eurasian Patent Convention and of the PCT
- EP European Patent: AT Austria, BE Belgium, CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein, DE Germany, DK Denmark, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom, GR Greece, IE Ireland, IT Italy, LU Luxembourg, MC Monaco, NL Netherlands, PT Portugal, SE Sweden, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT
- OA OAPI Patent: BF Burkina Faso, BJ Benin, CF Central African Republic, CG Congo, CI Côte d'Ivoire, CM Cameroun, GA Gabon, GN Guinea, ML Mali, MR Mauritania, NE Niger, SN Senegal, TD Chad, TG Togo, and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line)

National Patent (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AL Albania | <input type="checkbox"/> LU Luxembourg |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AM Armenia | <input type="checkbox"/> LV Latvia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AT Austria | <input type="checkbox"/> MD Republic of Moldova |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AU Australia | <input type="checkbox"/> MG Madagascar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AZ Azerbaijan | <input type="checkbox"/> MK The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BA Bosnia and Herzegovina | <input type="checkbox"/> MN Mongolia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BB Barbados | <input type="checkbox"/> MW Malawi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BG Bulgaria | <input type="checkbox"/> MX Mexico |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BR Brazil | <input type="checkbox"/> NO Norway |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BY Belarus | <input type="checkbox"/> NZ New Zealand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CA Canada | <input type="checkbox"/> PL Poland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein | <input type="checkbox"/> PT Portugal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CN China | <input type="checkbox"/> RO Romania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CU Cuba | <input type="checkbox"/> RU Russian Federation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CZ Czech Republic | <input type="checkbox"/> SD Sudan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DE Germany | <input type="checkbox"/> SE Sweden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DK Denmark | <input type="checkbox"/> SG Singapore |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EE Estonia | <input type="checkbox"/> SI Slovenia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ES Spain | <input type="checkbox"/> SK Slovakia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FI Finland | <input type="checkbox"/> TJ Tajikistan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GB United Kingdom | <input type="checkbox"/> TM Turkmenistan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GE Georgia | <input type="checkbox"/> TR Turkey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HU Hungary | <input type="checkbox"/> TT Trinidad and Tobago |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IL Israel | <input type="checkbox"/> UA Ukraine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IS Iceland | <input type="checkbox"/> UG Uganda |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JP Japan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> US United States of America |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KE Kenya | <input type="checkbox"/> UZ Uzbekistan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KG Kyrgyzstan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VN Viet Nam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KP Democratic People's Republic of Korea | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KR Republic of Korea | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> KZ Kazakstan | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LC Saint Lucia | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LK Sri Lanka | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LR Liberia | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LS Lesotho | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LT Lithuania | |

Check-boxes reserved for designating States (for the purposes of a national patent) which have become party to the PCT after issuance of this sheet:

- ID Indonesia
-
-
-

In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all designations which would be permitted under the PCT except the designation(s) of _____.

The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (Confirmation of a designation consists of the filing of a notice specifying that designation and the payment of the designation and confirmation fees. Confirmation must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIMFurther priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box

The priority of the following earlier application(s) is hereby claimed:

Country (in which, or for which, the application was filed)	Filing Date (day/month/year)	Application No.	Office of filing (only for regional or international application)
item (1) JP	23.10.96	Patent Application No. 8-281119	
item (2)			
item (3)			

Mark the following check-box if the certified copy of the earlier application is to be issued by the Office which for the purposes of the present international application is the receiving Office (a fee may be required):

The receiving Office is hereby requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) identified above as item(s): (1)

Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA) (If two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used): ISA / EP

Earlier search Fill in where a search (international, international-type or other) by the International Searching Authority has already been carried out or requested and the Authority is now requested to base the international search, to the extent possible, on the results of that earlier search. Identify such search or request either by reference to the relevant application (or the translation thereof) or by reference to the search request:

Country (or regional Office): Date (day/month/year): Number:

Box No. VIII CHECK LIST

This international application contains the following number of sheets:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| 1. request : | 4 sheets |
| 2. description : | 25 sheets |
| 3. claims : | 5 sheets |
| 4. abstract : | 1 sheets |
| 5. drawings : | 7 sheets |
| Total : | 42 sheets |

This international application is accompanied by the item(s) marked below:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> separate signed power of attorney | 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fee calculation sheet |
| 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> copy of general power of attorney | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> separate indications concerning deposited microorganisms |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> statement explaining lack of signature | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing (diskette) |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s): | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify): REQUEST FOR TRANSMITTAL OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT |

Figure No. 2 of the drawings (if any) should accompany the abstract when it is published.**Box No. IX SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT OR AGENT**

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).

HATORI Osamu

MATSUSHIMA Yoshiyuki

For receiving Office use only

1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application:	2. Drawings:	
3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:	<input type="checkbox"/> received: <input type="checkbox"/> not received:	
4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):		
5. International Searching Authority specified by the applicant: ISA /	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid	

For International Bureau use only

Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/JP 97/03816

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 A61F13/15

According to International Patent Classification(IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 736 931 A (GLASSMAN J) 5 June 1973 see column 3, line 29 - line 31; claims; figures 1,9,10 ---	1,12,19
X	EP 0 219 326 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 22 April 1987 see page 11, line 1 - line 9; claims 1-10; figure 6 see page 23, line 34 - page 24, line 7 ---	1,2,8
A	EP 0 558 889 A (MOELNLYCKE AB) 8 September 1993 see page 3, line 46 - line 58; figures 3,4 ---	3
X	US 4 029 101 A (CHESKY SHELDON R ET AL) 14 June 1977 see claims; figures 3-5,7,8 ---	1,8-11
X	US 4 029 101 A (CHESKY SHELDON R ET AL) 14 June 1977 see claims; figures 3-5,7,8 ---	1,12,18
	-/-	

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

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International Application No
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